

Vocabulary  
Workshop Level  
G Unit 2

# accost

- (v.) to approach and speak to first; to confront in a challenging or aggressive way.
- Synonyms: approach, confront
- The nobleman was **accosted** by beggars on his way to the castle.

# animadversion

- (n.) a comment indicating strong criticism or disapproval.
- Synonyms: rebuke
- The young filmmaker was upset by the **animadversion** of the film critic.

# avid

- (adj.) desirous of something to the point of greed; intensely eager.
- Synonyms: enthusiastic, keen, grasping
- Most writers are also **avid** readers who have loved books since childhood.

# brackish

- (adj.) having a salty taste and unpleasant to drink.
- Synonyms: briny, saline
- The shipwrecked passengers adrift in the lifeboat became ill after drinking **brackish** water.

# celerity

- (adj.) swiftness, rapidity of motion or action.
- Synonyms: speed, alacrity
- Although the heavy snowfall was not expected, the highway department responded with surprising **celerity**.

# devious

- (adj.) straying or wandering from a straight or direct course; done or acting in a shifty or underhanded way.
- Synonyms: roundabout, indirect, tricky, sly
- The interrogator used **devious** methods to try to get the suspect to incriminate himself.

# gambit

- (n.) in chess, an opening move that involves risk or sacrifice in order to gain later advantage; any opening move of this type.
- Synonyms: ploy, stratagem, ruse, maneuver
- Asking an interesting stranger about his or her major is a popular college party **gambit**.



# halcyon

- (n) legendary bird
- (adj.) calm, peaceful, happy, golden; prosperous, affluent
- Synonyms: tranquil, serene
- The teacher read the legend of the **halcyon** a mythic bird that nested in a calm sea.
- The old woman often spoke of the **halcyon** days of her childhood.

# histrionic

- (adj.) pertaining to actors and their techniques; theatrical, artificial; melodramatic.
- Synonyms: affected, stagy
- Upon receiving his award, the student gave a **histrionic** speech.

# incendiary

- (adj.) deliberately setting or causing fires; designed to start fires; tending to stir up strife or rebellion;
- (n.) one who deliberately sets fires, arsonist; one who causes strife.
- Synonyms: (adj.) inflammatory; (n.) firebrand
- The radical **incendiary** was sentenced to life imprisonment.
- **Incendiary** bombs started fires, but the wind fed and fanned the flames

# maelstrom

- (n.) a whirlpool of great size and violence; a situation resembling a whirlpool in violence and destruction.
- Synonyms: vortex, chaos, turbulence, tumult
- Many innocent people caught in the **maelstrom** of the revolution lost their lives and property.

# myopic

- (adj.) nearsighted; lacking a broad, realistic view of a situation; lacking foresight or discernment.
- Synonyms: shortsighted
- Please don't be **myopic** or egocentric be a citizen of this planet.

# overt

- (adj.) open, not hidden, expressed or revealed in a way that is easily recognized.
- Synonyms: clear, obvious, manifest
- In order for Congress to declare war, the President must demonstrate an **overt** threat.

# pejorative

- (adj.) tending to make worse; expressing disapproval or disparagement, derogatory, deprecatory, belittling.
- The lawyer was accused of making a **pejorative** remark when referring to the defendant's background.

# propriety

- (adj.) the state of being proper, appropriateness; (pl.) standards of what is proper or socially acceptable.
- Synonyms: fitness, correctness, decorum
- After Harold wore a clown suit to his cousin's funeral, we had to question his sense of **propriety**.



# sacrilege

- (n.) improper or disrespectful treatment of something held sacred
- Synonyms: desecration, defilement
- The anthropologist was accused of committing a **sacrilege** when she disturbed an ancient burial ground.

# summarily

- (adv.) without delay or formality; briefly, concisely
- Synonyms: promptly, peremptorily, abruptly
- As soon as there was evidence of criminal wrongdoing, the official was **summarily** dismissed from his post.

# suppliant

- (adj.) asking humbly and earnestly;
- (n.) one who makes a request humbly and earnestly, a petitioner, suitor
  
- He made a **suppliant** address to the parole board.
  
- The **suppliant** entered the church seeking forgiveness.

# talisman

- (n.) an object that serves as a charm or is believed to confer magical powers, an amulet, fetish
- Most people do not believe that rabbit's feet and other **talismans** actually bring good luck

# undulate

- (v.) to move in waves or with a wavelike motion; to have a wavelike appearance or form
- Synonyms: ripple, fluctuate, rise and fall.
- Throwing a stone in the lake will sometimes cause the water to **undulate**.